## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~topsheet~~ fibrous sheet for an absorbent article which comprises a nonwoven fabric having a plurality of heat fusion joints formed by embossing [[, the]] fibers constituting the nonwoven fabric protruding in the thickness direction of the nonwoven fabric between the heat fusion joints to form a plurality of protrusions on both the upper and the lower sides of the nonwoven fabric, and the base of the individual protrusions formed on the lower side projecting laterally in the planar direction of the nonwoven fabric and extending at least partially over an adjacent heat fusion joint.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~topsheet~~ fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric has an upper layer and a lower layer adjacent to the upper layer, the protrusions formed on the upper side of the nonwoven fabric are made of the upper layer, and the protrusions formed on the lower side of the nonwoven fabric are made of the lower layer, the lower layer contains 50% by weight or more of self-crimping fiber which has been crimped, and the upper layer contains thermally fusible fiber which has substantially no heat shrinkability or does not shrink at or below the self-crimping starting temperature of the self-crimping fiber.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~topsheet~~ fibrous sheet according to claim 2, wherein in the protrusions made of the lower layer, the self-crimping fibers which has been crimped are free from each other without being fusion bonded.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~topsheet~~ fibrous sheet according to claim 1, wherein the height of the protrusions formed on the upper side of the nonwoven fabric is larger than that of the protrusions formed on the lower side of the nonwoven fabric.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The fibrous sheet according to claim 1, which comprises a topsheet for said absorbent article ~~A fibrous sheet for an absorbent article which comprises a nonwoven fabric having a plurality of heat fusion joints formed by embossing, the fibers constituting the nonwoven fabric protruding in the thickness direction of the nonwoven fabric between the heat fusion joints to form a plurality of protrusions on both the upper and the lower sides of the nonwoven fabric, and the base of the individual protrusions formed on the lower side projecting laterally in the planar direction of the nonwoven fabric and extending at least partially over an adjacent heat fusion joint.~~

6. **(Cancelled)**